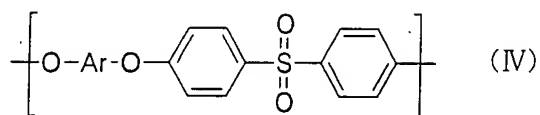


Amendment to the claims

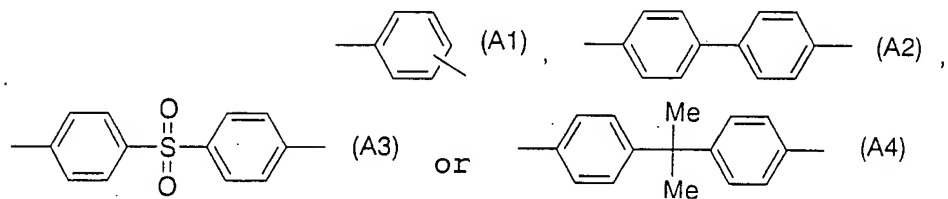
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

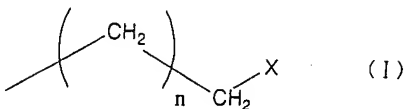
1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers characterized by subjecting a polymer wherein the backbone structure of the polymer is a polysulfone structure represented by the following formula (IV):



wherein Ar is



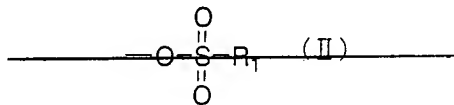
having a side chain containing a leaving group X
represented by the structural formula (I):



[wherein X is a halogen atom ~~leaving group~~, and n is 0] to substitution of X with an acylthio group, and then oxidizing the acylthio group into a sulfonic group.

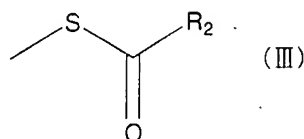
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers according to claim 1, wherein a leaving group X is Cl, Br, or I ~~or a substituent represented by the following formula (ii):~~



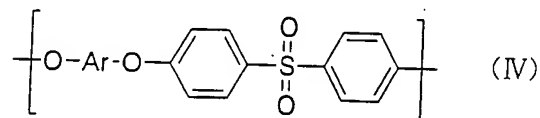
~~[wherein R₁ is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a perfluoro(C₁-C₃)alkyl group or an aryl group].~~

4. (Previously presented) The process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers according to any of claims 1 or 3, wherein an acylthio group represented by the following formula (III):

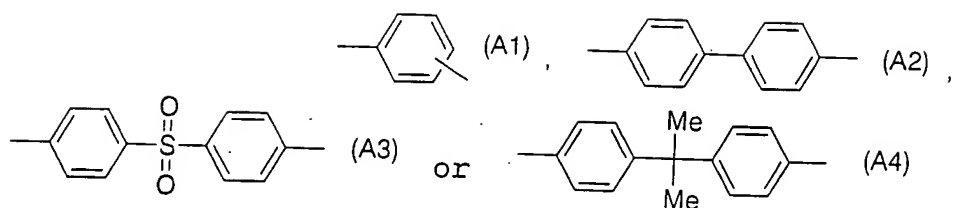


[wherein R_2 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an aryl group].

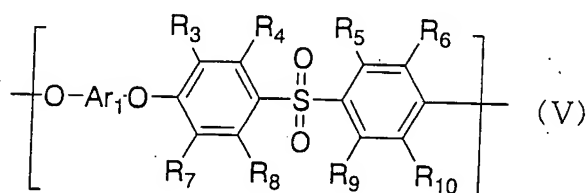
5. (Previously presented) The process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers according to any one of claims 1 or 3, wherein the backbone structure of the polymer having a side chain (I) is a polysulfone structure represented by the following formula (IV):



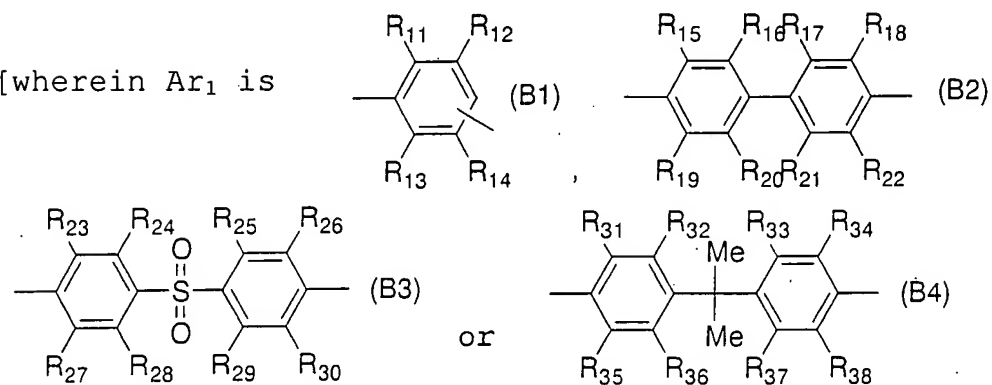
wherein Ar is



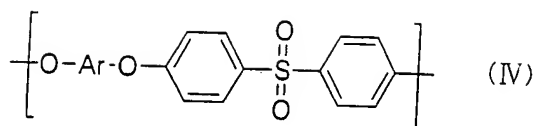
6. (Original) A process for the production of sulfomethylated polysulfone, represented by the following formula (V):



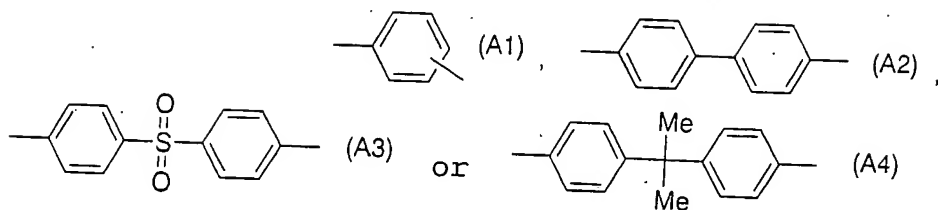
[wherein Ar₁ is



R₃–R₃₈ independently is a hydrogen atom or a sulfomethyl group], characterized by subjecting an aromatic ring of a polysulfone polymers represented by the following formula (IV):

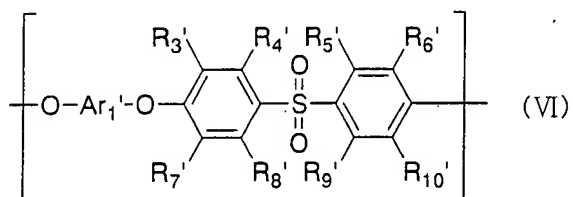


[wherein Ar is

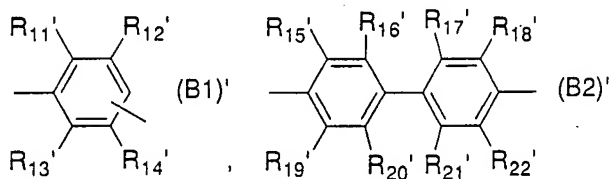


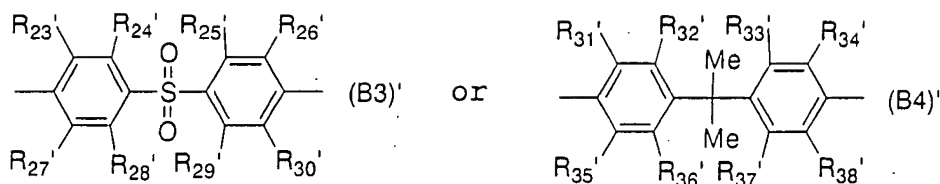
to (a) chloromethylation, (b) then subjecting the formed chlorine to acetylthiolation, followed by further oxidation to be converted into a sulfonic group.

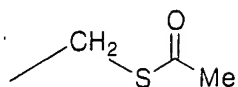
7. (Original) An acetylthiomethyl-containing polysulfone, represented by the following formula (VI):



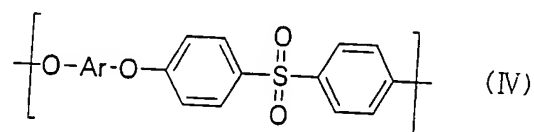
wherein Ar₁' is





R₃' to R₃₈' independently is a hydrogen atom, or 

8. (Previously presented) The process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers according to claim 4, wherein the backbone structure of the polymer having a side chain (I) is a polysulfone structure represented by the following formula (IV):



wherein Ar is

